

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26, 28-30, and 31-35 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25, and 26 are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26 and 28-30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 36-42 are added.

Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson, U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0138670 (hereinafter “Johnson”).

First, Applicants would like to gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s indication that claims 8, 12-14, 16, 20-22, 24, and 28-30 contain allowable subject matter. See Advisory Action dated 10/9/2007, paragraph 11.

In the previous response, claims 8, 12, and 16 are rewritten in independent form as new claims 31, 32, and 35. Therefore, new claims 31-35 are allowable. In this Amendment, claims 20, 24, and 28, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, are rewritten in independent as amended claims 36, 39, and 40. Therefore, claims 36, 39, and 40 are allowable, and claims 37-38 and 41-42 are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26 and 28-30 are cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution only. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any of the all pending claims in future continuation applications.

For at least all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Serial No.: 09/888,273
Supplemental Amendment dated: June 9, 2008
Response to Office Action of: October 9, 2007

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,
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